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## Message from the Mayor

Last week I was extremely pleased to sign legislation that will launch a new Department of the Environment for the District of Columbia—an exciting step that will benefit residents and visitors alike.

A District Department of the Environment will serve to consolidate the city's environmental functions that are currently scattered among several agencies. The Department of the Environment will ensure that our city's natural environment is clean and healthy for the people who live here, who work here and who visit.

As the nation's capital, the District should—and now will—set the highest standard for environmental protection, resource conservation and urban sustainability. We had a very productive collaboration on this bill, which the Council passed unanimously. With such strong support, we are creating, for the first time, an agency whose singular mission is to protect the District's environment.

The birth of this new department reminds me of a favorite quote: "To plan is human, to implement is divine." Over the next six months, we will bring environmental protection and conservation under this single agency by unifying many of the environmental functions now spread throughout the government.

The District government will lead by example by committing to follow environmentally sustainable practices and protect and conserve our precious natural resources. I am committed to making this agency a model for the nation and to making the District of Columbia a leader in green government policies. We owe it to ourselves, to our children and to future generations of Washingtonians who depend on us to make the right choices today.

I am glad the members of the Council agreed with me that a new department which is focused solely on the environment will enable us to operate more efficiently as we improve the city's air quality, clean up our local rivers and streams and enhance our trees, parks and open spaces.

At the signing ceremony on December 2, I was joined by Councilmember Carol Schwartz, who drafted the original legislation; Jim Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Donald Welsh; and members of the Mayor's Environmental Council.

I especially want to commend Councilmember Carol Schwartz, who drafted the original legislation, for her hard work on this issue.

The provisions of the bill include:

- Within 180 days of enactment, transfer the Environmental Health Administration (EHA) from the Department of Health to the new Department of the Environment. EHA includes the Bureau of Environmental Quality, which is responsible for air and water quality, watershed protection, and fisheries and wildlife.
- Authorize the transfer of stormwater management functions from the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) to the new department.
- Transfer the Office of Energy from the Department of Public Works to the new department.
- Establish policy-making responsibility over vector control, tree management, and recycling and solid waste policy.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human  
Services

Office of Tax and  
Revenue

Department of Parks and  
Recreation

Department of  
Employment Services

Metropolitan Police  
Department

Office of Boards and  
Commissions

Commission on the Arts  
and Humanities

## LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and  
Tourism

DC Public Library



# Recognizing Art Teachers Across the District

Dr. Clifford B. Janey, Superintendent for the District of Columbia Public Schools, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, in partnership with the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, want to recognize K-12 teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing the quality of art education for children and youth in the District of Columbia.

Since 1968, the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) has developed and promoted local artists, organizations, and activities. The Mission of the DCCAH is "to provide grants, programs and education activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city."

In partnership with the community, DCCAH promotes excellence in the arts by initiating and supporting programs, activities, and policies that inspire, nurture, and reflect the multi-ethnic character and cultural diversity of the District. This month the DCCAH, along with the Superintendent, is asking all District residents to nominate an outstanding arts teacher for the Third Annual Superintendent's Art Teacher Award by the December 9, 2005 deadline.

The aim of this award is to encourage excellence and creativity in teaching the arts in DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools and to recognize the exceptional educators who have enriched the lives of so many students in the District. Art teachers in all art disciplines (visual arts, music, theatre, dance or humanities-based) may be nominated by school principals, arts content specialists, arts organizations or arts supervisors.

One award will be given on each of the elementary, middle, and high school levels and will include a \$500 stipend for special arts projects benefiting the award recipient's class and school. The awardees will be honored at the 21st Annual Mayor's Arts award ceremony in January 2006.

For more information, email [Mary Liniger](#) or call (202) 724-5613.

## Appointment of New LGBT Affairs Director

Last week, I announced the appointment of Darlene R. Nipper to the position of Director for the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs.

Ms. Nipper is a long-time advocate and activist who is a native Washingtonian. She has held several leadership positions in national advocacy organizations including executive director of the BET Foundation, Chief Operating Officer at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Vice President of Public Education for the National Mental Health Association. She specializes in organizing communities of color to respond to significant public health issues.

I've elevated the role of the LGBT director, and I am confident that Ms. Nipper will do an excellent job steering the office. She brings more than 15 years of management and advocacy experience to the District of Columbia government. She has been an advocate for those affected by HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, and other health issues. Additionally, for the past year, she has served as a health advocacy consultant.

During the past 15 years, Ms. Nipper has participated in several LGBT organizations and events. She was a member of my LGBT Executive Committee, where she focused on health issues.

She also served as a facilitator at the National Youth Advocacy Coalition's Annual Summit for several years, coordinated depression screening and education events for the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League in 2001, and ran HIV/AIDS and substance abuse support groups for the Inner City AIDS Network during the early 1990s.

Ms. Nipper has also supported the efforts of numerous other organizations including The Mautner Project; Black Lesbian Support Group; Living Miracles, a group focused on encouraging LGBT community members to seek recovery from substance abuse; and Women in the Life. In the summer 2005 issue of *Community Life*, an African American LGBT E-Newsletter, Ms. Nipper wrote an article about lesbians and breast cancer, highlighting her personal struggle with breast cancer.

BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

## Downtown Holiday Market

The holidays are a great time to take advantage of all that our city's downtown has to offer—including a brand new market that runs through December 21.

I'm talking about the very first Downtown Holiday Market, which I helped launch during a grand opening ceremony on December 2. This innovative new market is the first new activity on this site since we "blew up" the Old Convention Center and began ushering in a new era for this section of our thriving downtown.

The use of this space signals a rebirth of this site prior to its development as our new city center—which we're all looking forward to. The market is a great piece of evidence for how much progress we're making as a city:

- With the market, we showcase the work of local artists and craftspeople.
- We create a place for families to stroll while downtown.
- We create another destination site for our downtown, where residents and visitors can also shop, ice skate, see a play, visit a museum and of course, eat.

In the spirit of the upcoming holiday season, I encourage residents and visitors alike to come by the market.

So come see it from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

- Thursdays through Sundays from December 1 to December 18
- Plus, Monday through Wednesday from December 19 through December 21

For more information about the market, please call the Downtown BID at (202) 638-3232.

Or, on the Website: [diversemarkets.net](http://diversemarkets.net)

Happy Holidays to everyone and please come down to the market!

## Ms. Senior DC Competes in Ms. Senior America Pageant

It is my pleasure to announce that Sandra Bears, our lovely "Ms. Senior DC" was one of 10 women chosen to compete in the finals at the Ms. Senior America Pageant held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

After two preliminaries and the announcement of the finalist she was the favorite of many in the audience who enjoyed her rendition of "At Last." Bears competed with 28 other representatives from across the nation, including the US Virgin Islands.

Ms. Senior DC competed in the finals with representatives from New York, Tennessee, Florida, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Rhode Island and California. Bears is the first District contestant to make the finals. Each contestant was judged on a personal interview with the judges, their philosophy of life, and talent and evening gown presentations.

Helen McCarney from New York was crowned Ms. Senior America.

Women 60 years of age and older compete in the annual pageant. The first national pageant was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1980.

For more information please visit the District's Office on Aging website: [dcoa.dc.gov](http://dcoa.dc.gov)



## District Activities



Mayor Williams, Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas and area teens from the DC Child and Family Services program enjoy a fun-filled afternoon bowling at the new Lucky Strike lanes in downtown DC.



Mayor Williams delivers remarks at the grand opening of the first Downtown Holiday Market. The market features a range of unique, handmade gifts created by local and international artisans.



Doctors rally on the steps of the Wilson Building in support of Mayor Williams' Health Care Reform Act of 2005.

## Community News

- [Mayor Signs Legislation Creating Department of the Environment](#)
- [Mayor Anthony A. Williams Pays Tribute to Renowned Urban Designer Charles Atherton](#)
- [Mayor Announces Appointment of Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All](#) [News Releases](#)

11/18 to 12/16	<b>2005 Toys for Tots Campaign</b> All DC Firehouses
12/8 to 12/21	<b>Downtown Holiday Market</b> 11 am – 7 pm Old Convention Center Site 11th and H Streets, NW
12/9 to 12/11	<b>The Joy of Christmas: A Norwegian Festival</b> 7:30 pm – 9 pm Washington National Cathedral Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, NW

